

ABSTRACTSub
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The present invention provides a low profile hacksaw comprising an elongated blade having a cutting edge. A rigid I-beam frame member has a forward end portion and a maximum height portion. Preferably, the maximum height portion is located at the rear end of the frame member, but it may be located intermediate the forward and rearward ends. The frame member has an arcuate portion which extends substantially the entire length between the forward end and maximum height portions and which curves downwardly and forwardly towards the forward end portion to provide the hacksaw with a low profile. A manually engageable handle is provided for manual grasping to enable performance of a cutting operation wherein the cutting edge of the tensioned blade is engaged with a work piece and moved forwardly and rearwardly to cut through the work piece. A releasable blade tensioning device provides a second blade mounting structure on which the other longitudinal end portion of the blade is removably mounted. The blade tensioning device is constructed and arranged to affect relative movement between the first and second blade mounting structures to tension the blade in the longitudinal direction thereof and thereby apply a rearwardly directed force to the forward end portion of the frame member. As a result, the rearwardly directed load applied to the forward end portion creates a bending moment which is distributed throughout and resisted by the frame member as a result of its curvature and I-beam configuration.